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THE CONFERENCE DAY BY DAY

Formal Acts of Supreme Council and the Commissions

On February 3, the Conference, through its chief representatives—Wilson, Lloyd-George, Orlando, and Clemenceau, issued the following warning:

The representatives of the great powers, having been informed of the conflict which has arisen between the Czechs and the Poles in the Principality of Teschen, in consequence of which the mining district of Ostrawa-Karvin and the railway from Oderberg to Teschen and Jablunkau has been occupied by the Czechs, have declared as follows:

In the first instance, they think it necessary to remind the nationalities who have engaged to submit the territorial questions which concern them to the Peace conference for its decision that they have promised to refrain from taking as a pawn or from occupying the territories to which they laid claim.

The representatives take note of the engagement by which the Czech delegates have declared that they were definitely stopping their troops on the line of the railway which runs from Oderberg to Teschen and Jablunkau.

Pending the decision of the Peace Conference as to the definitive assignments of the territories, that part of the railway line to the north of Teschen and the mining regions will remain in the occupation of Czech troops, while the southern section of the line, starting from and including the town of Teschen down to Jablunkau, will be intrusted to the military supervision of the Poles.

The undersigned consider it indispensable that a commission of control should be immediately sent to the spot to avoid any conflict between the Czechs and the Poles in the region of Teschen. This commission, apart from the measures that it will have to prescribe, will proceed to an inquiry on the basis of which the Peace Conference may form its decision in fixing definitively the respective frontiers of the Czechs and the Poles in the contested zone.

In order to seal the entente between the two friendly nations, which should follow a policy in full accord with that of the Allied and Associated Powers, the representatives of the great powers register a promise of the Czech representatives that their country will put at the disposition of the Poles all its available resources in war material, and will grant to them every facility for the transit of arms and ammunition.

The exploitation of the mines of the Karvin-Ostrawa district will be carried out in such a way as to avoid all infractions of private property, while reserving any police measures which the situation may require. The commission of control will be authorized to supervise this and, if necessary, to secure to the Poles that part of the output which may be equitably claimed by them to meet their wants.

It is understood that the local administration will continue to function in accordance with the conditions of the past of November, 1918, and that the rights of minorities will be strictly respected.

Pending the decision of the Peace Congress, political elections and military conscription will be suspended in the principality of Teschen.

No measure implying annexation of all or of a part of the said principality, either to the territory of Poland or of Czechoslovakia, taken by interested parties, shall have binding force.

The delegates of the Czech nation engage to release immediately with their arms and baggage, the Polish prisoners taken during the recent conflict.

The President of the United States, the Prime Ministers and Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the United States, the British Empire, France, Italy, and Japan met February 4 at the Quai d'Orsay from 11 to 1 o'clock. M. Venizelos made

a statement regarding Greek territorial interests in Asia Minor.

The following resolution was approved:

"It is agreed that the questions raised in the statement by M. Venizelos on the Greek territorial interests in the peace settlement shall be referred for examination in the first instance to an expert committee composed of two representatives each of the United States of America, the British Empire, France, and Italy. It shall be the duty of this committee to reduce the questions for decision within the narrowest possible limit and make recommendations for a just settlement. The committee is authorized to consult with the representatives of the peoples concerned."

American Labor Speaks

On Feb. 8, the American delegates on the Commission in International Labor Legislation submitted the following to the commission:

"We declare that the following fundamental principles should underlie and be incorporated in the peace treaty:

"A league of the free peoples of the world in a common covenant for genuine and practical co-operation to secure justice, and therefore peace, in the relations between nations.

"The entrance of any free nation into the league of free peoples of the world shall be inherent.

"No reprisals based upon purely vindictive purposes, or deliberate desire to injure, but to right manifest wrong.

"Recognition of the rights of small nations and of the principle, 'No people must be forced under a sovereignty under which it does not wish to live.'

"No territorial changes or adjustments of power except in the furtherance of the welfare of the peoples affected and in the furtherance of world peace.

"That in law and in practice the principle shall be recognized that the labor of a human being is not a commodity or an article of commerce.

"Involuntary servitude shall not exist except in punishment for crime of which the party shall have been duly convicted.

"Trial by jury should be established.

"The right of free association, free assemblage, free speech and the press shall not be denied or abridged.

"That the seamen of the merchant marine shall be guaranteed the right of leaving their vessels when the same are in a safe harbor.

"No article or commodity shall be shipped or delivered in international commerce in the production of which children under the age of sixteen years have been employed or permitted to work.

"No article or commodity shall be shipped or delivered in international commerce in the production of which convict labor has been employed or permitted.

"It shall be declared that the work day in industry and commerce shall not exceed eight hours per day, except in case of extraordinary emergency, such as danger to life or property.

"The sale or use for commercial purposes of articles made or manufactured in private homes shall be prohibited.

"It shall be declared that an adequate wage shall be paid for labor performed—a wage based upon and commensurate with the standards of pay conforming to the civilization of the time.

"That equal wages shall be paid to women as is paid to men for equal work performed.

"The incorporation of the points laid down by President Wilson."

The maritime and transport council met February 1, 4, and 11. Those present were M. Clementel, and M. Boisson for France; Signor Crespi for Italy; George Rublee for the United States, and J. A. Salter for Great Britain.

Important decisions were made as to the allocation for management and use of Austrian and German tonnage. Passenger vessels will be mainly employed in the repatriation of troops and cargo vessels for the carriage of food to different ports in Europe, including liberated areas and enemy countries. The vessels are to be divided for the purposes of management among the associated governments.

These arrangements were made on the understanding that the ultimate disposition of the vessels by the terms of peace would in no way be prejudiced, and in order to make this a fact they are being administered in the meantime in trust for the associated governments as a whole. They will fly the flag of the allied maritime transport service as well as the national flag of the country undertaking their management.

The council appointed delegates to proceed to Spa, together with representatives of the food departments and the naval authorities of the several governments to meet the representatives of the German Government, February 16, and arrange with regard to the delivery of vessels which the German Government was bound to hand over under the armistice of January 16, and the Treves agreement of January 17.

The preparation of a considerable number of vessels has been proceeding and about 750,000 deadweight tonnage have been named by the German Government and are now ready to sail. Meantime the associated governments are making an examination on the spot of other German vessels in German ports.

An official communication says:

"The reparation committee met this morning, with M. Klotz in the chair. The commission declared that only information communicated by the commission itself after each of its meetings should be considered authentic.

"The commission continued the examination of the principles upon which rest the right of reparation. Mr. Dulles, United States, and Lord Sumner, Great Britain, set forth in turn the point of view of the American and British delegations on the question. The discussion was continued the next morning."

A meeting of the supreme war council was held February 10, from 3 to 5:30 o'clock at the Quai d'Orsay.

The conditions of the renewal of the armistice were first discussed. M. Klotz, French minister of finance, then described the work published in 1916 of the German great general staff, proving the premeditated and systematic character of the destruction of French industry. He gave a detailed analysis of this work, which it was decided to refer to the economic committee.

The next meeting took place the next day at 3 o'clock. The Belgian delegates were to be heard.

The seventh meeting of the commission of the League of Nations was held at 10:30 o'clock at the Hotel de Crillon.

At this meeting the commission finished their first reading of the draft under discussion. In addition the drafting commission, to whom the commission had intrusted the revision of certain articles of the draft, made its report. The meeting adjourned at 1:15 p. m., to resume its work at 10:30 o'clock the next morning.

Though certain of the earlier articles may be subject to re-examination at this session, it is confidently expected that the commission will be able to proceed with the second reading of the draft.

The committee on reparation met at the ministry of finance, with M. Klotz in the chair. After naming the members of the different sub-committees, the committee began the discussion of the principles upon which rest the right to reparation, and the examining of the memoranda submitted by the different delegations.

William M. Hughes (premier of Australia) set forth the

considerations upon which the British memorandum was based.

The official report of the commission on ports, waterways and railways says:

"The commission on the international régime of ports, waterways and railways held its second meeting at the ministry of public works at 3 o'clock, under the chairmanship of M. Crespi.

"Two proposals were presented to the commission. The first, presented by the British delegation, relates to the freedom of interior transit, and the second, presented by the French delegation, relates to a study of the questions involved in the international régime of ports, waterways and railways, as well as the rivers and railroads to which this régime should be applied.

"After an exchange of views among the members of the commission it was decided to appoint two small committees, one consisting of nine members of which five should represent the great powers and four the minor powers, to study questions relative to the application of the international régime of ports, waterways and railways; the second, consisting of ten members, five from the great powers and five from the minor powers, to study the relation of general questions."

The eighth meeting of the commission on the League of Nations was held at 10:30 o'clock on February 11 at the Hotel de Crillon. The meeting was devoted to the consideration of a number of amendments to the draft which had been submitted. After a discussion had developed the sense of the meeting the several members were referred to a drafting committee, composed of M. Larnaude, Lord Robert Cecil, M. Venizelos and M. Vesnitch.

Two articles were added to the draft.

The commission met again at 10:30 Thursday morning at the Hotel de Crillon, when the draft was subjected to its second reading.

The President of the United States and the representatives of the allied and associated powers met at the Quai d'Orsay in the afternoon from 3 to 6 o'clock.

The Belgian delegation, composed of Mm. Hymans, Vandenheuvel and Vandervelde, stated the different claims of Belgium.

The war council met February 12, sitting from 11 until 12:30 and resumed the sitting in the afternoon from 3 to 5:30.

The conditions of the renewal of the armistice were decided.

Labor Legislation

The seventh meeting of the commission on international labor legislation took place this morning.

Article IV of the British draft was carried, providing that at the proposed international labor conference the representatives of the governments, the employers and work people should be entitled to speak and vote independently without regard to the views expressed by the other representatives of their nation, with power to draw up conventions binding on the States represented.

Hitherto the delegates present at such a conference have represented the governments only, and the voting has always been by nations. It was felt, however, that in dealing with labor legislation the employers and the workers must be given the fullest opportunity of giving free expression to their views, and that they could not do this if the delegates of each nation were bound to speak and vote as a unit.

Article V was also carried, providing that the international labor conference shall meet at the capital of the League of Nations, unless it decides by a two-thirds majority to meet elsewhere.

The commission then proceeded to discuss the article dealing with the establishment of the permanent international labor office and the governing body which will direct its work. It was agreed that the office should be established

at the capital of the League of Nations as part of the organization of the League, and should be under the control of a director.

The commission, at the President's suggestion, rose in honor of the birth of Abraham Lincoln.

The second reading of the draft of the Society of Nations, which began February 13, under the chairmanship of President Wilson, was continued the same day from 3:30 o'clock until 7 o'clock at the Hotel de Crillon, under the chairmanship of Lord Robert Cecil.

Due to the spirit of accord which has continually been manifested among members of the commission, and in spite of some reservations which have been made with regard to certain articles by some of the members, the whole text of the agreement, comprising twenty-six articles, was adopted after a protracted and complete discussion, which brought out every conceivable point.

The draft will be made public when it is presented by President Wilson at a plenary session at the Quai d'Orsay at 3:30 o'clock tomorrow afternoon. (See page 77.)

A meeting of the subcommittee appointed by the commission on the international régime of ports, waterways and railways to study the general questions of freedom of transit and other matters was held at 3 o'clock, February 14, at the ministry of public works. The Hon. Henry White, United States of America, was elected chairman, and Sir Herbert Llewellyn Smith, British Empire, vice chairman.

The committee considered a draft convention dealing with freedom of transit, submitted by the British delegation. The discussion indicated general agreement on the principles involved, but various amendments of detail were suggested. These amendments are now being collected and will form the basis of discussion at the next meeting.

The President of the United States of America and the representatives of the Allies and Associated Powers met at the Quai D'Orsay from 3 until 6 o'clock.

Dr. Howard Bliss, President of the American College at Beirut, and Chekri Gahem, President of the Syrian National Committee, were heard.

At a meeting at the Department of Interior, February 14, at 11:30 o'clock questions of organization and procedure in connection with the three subcommittees of the Commission on Responsibility for the War were discussed. These subcommittees are those dealing on acts of war, responsibility for the war, and the responsibility for the violation of the war and customs of war.

An arrangement was made by which each subcommittee is to meet at least twice during the next week.

The reparation commission met February 15 at 10:30 o'clock, under the presidency of M. Klotz.

The discussion of the principles on which the right of reparation is based was continued, and M. Van den Heuvel, Belgium, and M. Klotz, France, expressed at length the views of their respective governments.

Further discussion of this subject will be taken up at the next meeting, Monday, February 17, at 10:30 o'clock.

The representatives of the Allied and Associated Powers met at the Quai d'Orsay from 3 to 6 o'clock, and heard the delegates of the administration of the Lebanon. They then began the examination of the Russian question.

The supreme war council met February 17 at the Quai d'Orsay from 3 p. m., to 5 p. m. Marshal Foch informed the ministers of the Allied and Associated Powers of the acceptance by the Germans of the conditions for the renewal of the armistice.

The next meeting took place the next day at 2 p. m., when the Serbian delegation was heard.

The reparation commission met the next morning, with

M. Klotz in the chair. The commission continued with the examination of the principles on which is based the right to reparation, and heard in turn M. Chiesa, Italy; Protitch, Jugoslavia; Loucheur, France, and Van Den Heuvel, Belgium.

A statement on Roumanian claims says:

"The commission for the study of Roumanian territorial questions met at 10:30 under the chairmanship of M. Tardieu, and continued the examination of Roumania's claims."

The ninth meeting of the Commission of International Labor Legislation was held at the Ministry of Labor under the presidency of Mr. Gompers at 2:30 p. m., on Monday, February 17.

The discussion of the procedure laid down in the British scheme for the meetings of the annual conference was continued. The commission agreed to the British proposal as amended in accordance with a proposal of the Belgian delegation, which provided that at the annual labor conference the government of each State shall be represented by two delegates having one vote each, while there will be one delegate from each State representing employers and having one vote, and one delegate representing work people, also having one vote.

The representatives of the Allied and Associated Powers met February 18 at the Quai d'Orsay from 3 to 6 o'clock p. m.

MM. Vesnitch, Zolger, and Trumbitch explained the territorial claims of the Serbs, Slovenes, and Croats, respectively. It was decided to submit the question of the frontiers claimed with the exception of those in which Italy is directly interested to the commission already charged with the examination of the question of the Banst.

The first meeting of the subcommittee on the international régime of ports, waterways and railroads took place at 3 o'clock at the ministry of public works. There was an exchange of views on the two drafts of the convention presented by the British and French delegates regarding the internationalization of rivers. The suggestions and amendments proposed by the various delegates were referred to a drafting committee of three members, which will prepare a new draft of the convention for the next meeting of the subcommittee, which was held on Friday, February 21, at 10 a. m.

Territorial questions relating to Greece were discussed at a meeting of the committee appointed for the study of these questions at the Quai d'Orsay; and for the first time the personnel of this body was made known in a communiqué, as follows:

For America, Col. Muriel Westerman and Clive Day; for Great Britain, Sir Robert Borden and Sir Eyre Crewe, for France, Jules Cambon and Jean Gout; for Italy, Messrs. Demartino and Castoldi.

Conditions to be considered in determining the Northern boundary of Greece in Northern Epirus received special attention at the meeting. Tentative proposals were presented by the different delegations.

Sympathy for Clemenceau

The American Commission to Negotiate Peace issued the following statement February 19:

"Secretary Lansing called at M. Clemenceau's home to convey the deepest sympathy both of the American people and of himself and the other members of the American Commission to Negotiate Peace, for the assault which had just been made upon the French statesman. Further and more formal official expressions of regret have been prepared, as the American Government wishes to do everything in its power to show its very profound sympathy for the victim of such a dastardly act."

"In order to allay the very natural apprehension which might be created as to the effect of the attack on M. Cle-

menceau upon the work of the peace conference, Secretary Lansing stated after his visit to M. Clemenceau's home, that in his opinion and that of other statesmen with whom he has conferred the work of the conference has been so well organized by M. Clemenceau and had progressed to such an advanced stage that most of it is now out in committees which will, of course continue uninterruptedly.

"M. Clemenceau's absence from the main conferences, even if short, will be most deeply regretted by all his conferees, but his condition is such that all matters of importance can be referred to him with only slight delay.

"M. Clemenceau himself had been a driving force to expedite the work to the greatest degree possible, and stated after the attack that he hoped it would serve as a spur to the other statesmen to come to a settlement, on all outstanding problems."

The third subcommission of the commission on the responsibilities for the war met February 20 to continue its investigations into criminal acts.

In opening, the chairman of the meeting, the Hon. W. F. Massey, said he wished to convey to M. Clemenceau on his own behalf and on behalf of the members of the subcommittee an expression of profound sympathy on the occasion of the dastardly attempt against the premier's life. He expressed the hope that M. Clemenceau would soon be completely restored to health and able to resume the very prominent place he had always taken at the conference.

Major J. Brown Scott, of the United States delegation, said that France and the entire world are to be congratulated that the assassin failed to accomplish his purpose.

Monsieur F. Larnaude expressed his thanks in the name of France to the chairman, and also to Major Scott, for their expressions of their sympathy which he much appreciates.

The commission for the study of Roumanian territorial questions met at 3 p. m. under the chairmanship of M. Andre Tardieu and continued the discussion of the claims of Roumania.

The subcommittee of the commission on the international régime of ports, waterways and railways and for the study of freedom of transit held a meeting at 10 o'clock.

The chairman, referring to the dastardly attack on M. Clemenceau on the previous day, expressed the sympathy of the subcommittee and their satisfaction that the attack had not had more serious results. It was agreed that a resolution in that sense should be signed by all the members of the commission and be sent to M. Clemenceau by the secretary general.

Subsequently an interesting exchange of views took place on the amendments to the British draft convention on freedom of transit, which had been proposed by the United States delegation, the Italian delegation, the Portuguese delegation and the Grecian delegation.

The discussion of the first half of the draft was completed and it was agreed that a further meeting to complete the discussion should be held on Monday, February 24, at 10 o'clock a. m.

The allied and associated representatives were in session at the Quai d'Orsay February 21 from 3 till 5:30 p. m. M. Stephen Pichon, French Minister of Foreign Affairs, presided. The following matters were considered:

The question of the creation of a neutral zone between the Hungarians and Roumanians in Transylvania was referred to the Supreme War Council at Versailles.

It was decided that the Allies, as a result of the session of the Polish Diet, at which the powers of the Polish ministers were confirmed, and at which Ignace Jan Paderewski was acclaimed head of the Government, should recognize the Polish Government.

Conclusions reached by the commission formed to draw up a plan of procedure for the disposing of economic questions were considered. It was decided to refer to the economic council, appointed by the conference at the suggestion of

President Wilson, all economic measures of a transitory nature. Matters of a permanent nature will be examined by a special commission to be appointed by the conference at an early session.

Five delegates of the powers have been intrusted with the task of drafting a plan of procedure for the new cabinet, a subcommittee being formed to make suggestions regarding its composition, and, in so doing, to take into account the reservations made by Lord Robert Cecil regarding the representation of the British Dominions. This question was referred to the Commission on Foreign Affairs.

The representatives of the Allied and Associated Governments met February 24 at the Quai d'Orsay, from 3 to 5 p. m.

The Albanian representatives were introduced, and Turhan Pasha stated the Albanian claims. The examination of this question was referred to the Committee on Greek Affairs.

The Paris Interallied Commission on Polish Affairs communicated certain information and proposals received from the interallied commission now at Warsaw. Marshal Foch was present.

In behalf of the Interallied Financial Commission, M. Crespi (Italy), on February 25, explained the measures to be taken to avoid the nonpayment of coupons of the Austro-Hungarian debt, falling due March 1, in the absence of an agreement among the different States of the former Austro-Hungarian monarchy. The commission's proposals were approved.

The question of the transport to Poland of the Polish divisions in France and Italy was examined, Marshal Foch taking part. The conference sent instructions on this subject to the interallied commission at Warsaw.

M. Perotti, of the African department, explained the demands of France in the direction of the suppression of the act of Algeciras and the imposition on Germany of necessary guarantees to prevent her from resuming the hostile action in Morocco which she has taken against France during the past ten years.

The daily meeting of the representatives of the Allied and Associated Powers took place February 26 at the Quai d'Orsay from 3 to 6 p. m.

The meeting discussed in the first instance, the question of allotting to the commission already existing and to new ones the task of considering the different frontier questions which affect enemy States. The conditions under which Belgian claims and the problems attaching thereto are to be considered were laid down.

The representatives of the Supreme War Council of Versailles were then introduced in order to report their conclusions regarding the establishment of an intermediate zone in Transylvania between the Roumanian and Hungarian troops. Those conditions were adopted by the conference.

The claims of Armenia were set forth by M. Ahroumanian, President of the Armenian delegation, and Boghos Nubar Pasha.

The fourteenth meeting of the commission on international labor legislation took place under the presidency of Samuel Gompers. After concluding the consideration of the articles in the British draft dealing with penalties applicable to a State which has failed to carry out its obligations in regard to the international labor convention the commission proceeded to consider the position of self-governing dominions, protectorates and colonies, respectively, in regard to international labor legislation.

It also considered what conditions must be fulfilled to enable the proposed organization to be altered.

You may be sure I shall not run away. If it is to be a Republic, then I will myself run for the Presidency.—King Alfonso of Spain.